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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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4 January 1966

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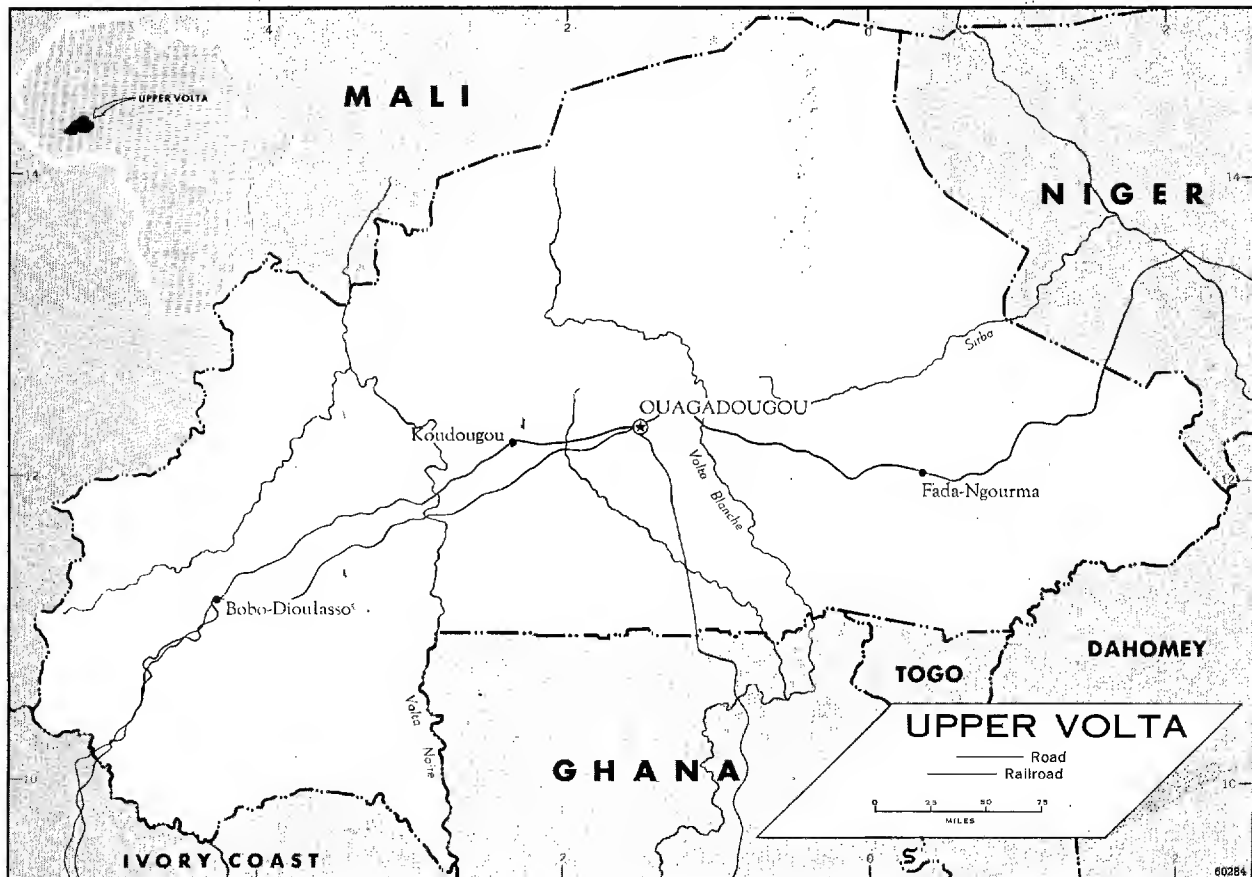
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*Upper Volta: Army Chief of Staff Sangoule Lamizana's seizure of power last night on behalf of the army may stop the increasingly serious mass demonstrations of the past few days.

Lamizana, a highly regarded professional officer, probably plans to hold power until a new civilian government is chosen.

The apparently pre-planned demonstrations began on 31 December after President Yameogo announced a 10 to 20 percent cut in civil service salaries. The President declared a state of emergency on 2 January, but failed to head off the general strike which began in the capital city of Ouagadougou yesterday.

The demonstrators, including a number of prominent civil service officials, sacked the undefended National Assembly building and the headquarters of Upper Volta's single party a few hours after troops turned them back from the presidential palace. Serious casualties were avoided largely because the mobs did not challenge the soldiers, whom they were urging to seize power. As a result of Lamizana's announcement, it seems unlikely that the demonstrations will be resumed today. Except for Ouagadougou, the country is reported calm.

Upper Volta's pro-Western orientation probably will not be affected--at least in the short run--by Yameogo's ouster which was apparently engineered to pacify domestic discontent. Despite Yameogo's seemingly solid control of the country, his tendency to disregard internal problems and his extravagances in connection with his recent second marriage evidently undermined public confidence for his regime.

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NOTE

UK - Common Market: Foreign Office officials who have been pushing for a British declaration of readiness to join the Common Market on the basis of the existing treaty now see little hope of success. They feel that Prime Minister Wilson's preoccupation with Rhodesia precludes an effort at this time to overcome the cabinet split on Europe. Furthermore, opposition leader Heath's declining popularity relieves Wilson of any need to outdo the Conservatives in a "European" policy.

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